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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Identical letters dated 5 October 2009 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write to you in follow-up letter to our recent letter (A/ES-10/462-S/2009/494), regarding the tense and deteriorating situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in Occupied East Jerusalem, due to the blatant provocations and illegal actions that continue to be committed by Israel, the occupying Power.

On Sunday, 4 October 2009, the occupying Power once again used excessive force in repressing Palestinian worshippers trying to defend Al-Haram Al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa mosque from incursions by extremist and militant Israeli settlers, whose repeated threats continue to incite further extremism and provoke an already volatile situation. Among those brutally beaten and detained by the Israeli occupying forces was elected Jerusalem Parliamentarian Hatem Abdel Qader, who was also fined nearly 6,000 dollars and banned from the Occupied City, his birthplace and home.

The recent clashes, as well as the widespread arrest and detention campaign and deployment of occupying forces in East Jerusalem, have also been accompanied by increasingly racist and provocative remarks against the indigenous Palestinian population of the city. These provocations are being carried out in addition to the incessant, aggressive and illegal Israeli colonization measures being perpetrated in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied West Bank, which continues to witness the construction and expansion of settlements and all related settlement infrastructure and the continued deliberate transfer of Israeli settlers.

Construction is under way on approximately 800 new settlement units in 34 different illegal Israeli settlements across the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In addition, in a flagrant and defiant demonstration of Israel's total disdain for the clear international consensus in rejection of all settlement activities, plans are apparently proceeding for the approval of construction of a new Israeli settlement in the village of Al-Walajeh near Bethlehem — deep into the Occupied West Bank.

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Such illegal actions and incitement only reconfirm the Palestinian belief that the current right-wing Israeli Government is only interested in impeding peace efforts in the region and establishing a vast web of illegal facts on the ground that directly contradict and sabotage the very principle of the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the 1967 borders.

Indeed, while the Palestinian side continues to do its utmost to uphold its obligations and commitments and to promote an environment conducive for the pursuit of a just and final peace settlement, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to fervently attempt to alter the demographic composition, geography, character and status of Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, not seeking peace but seeking to annex de facto even more Palestinian land, in flagrant violation of international law and United Nations resolutions. The persistence of such illegal, immoral and aggressive behaviour will not only cause the further deterioration and destabilization of the situation on the ground, with the consequent heightened suffering and hardship for the Palestinian civilian population, but will also nullify any attempts for a resumption of the peace process.

Such belligerent disresp[illegible] international humanitarian law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, which undoubtedly represent the will of the international community, must be a cause of grave concern to us all. Further, it must be a strong incentive for urgent and unwavering efforts, including by the Security Council, to compel Israel to abide by its legal obligations, including those to which it has publicly committed itself, and to cease behaving as though it were a State above the law. Wavering in this regard, including by standing idly by as Israel persists with this reckless and dangerous campaign, would be extremely detrimental to the efforts to revive the peace process and would serve as a severe blow to the very credibility of these ongoing international peace efforts. We thus urge rapid and decisive action to prevent this volatile situation from escalating further.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 344 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 28 September 2009 (A/ES-10/462-S/2009/494), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.